

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

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SUBJECT: SOVIET COMMENTARY ON SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS

SUMMARY: WEEKEND SOVIET COMMENTARY ON SOVIET-U.S.
RELATIONS REPEATS GROMYKO'S ASSESSMENT OF VANCE-GROMYKO
TALKS AND OFFERS SOVIET READERS FURTHER EXPLANATIONSS
FOR DOWNTURN OF SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. INTERNATIONAL WEEK COLUMN IN PRAVDA OF JULY 16 BY
YURI ZHUKOV OPENS WITH A DISCUSSION OF SOVIET-U.S.
RELATIONS TIED TO THE VANCE-GROMYKO MEETINGS IN
GENEVA. ZHUKOV REPEATS THAT THE EXCHANGES WERE
"USEFUL" AND PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR A FURTHER NARROWING
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OF DIFFERENCES. HE THEN COMMENTS THAT IT IS "STRANGE"
THAT WHILE TALKS ARE PROGRESSING THERE SHOULD BE
"NEW STEPS DIRECTED AT SECURING THE MILITARY
SUPERIORITY OF THE AMERICAN SIDE." ZHUKOV CITES THE
NEW YORK TIMES CONCERNING POSSIBLE PLANS TO CONSTRUCT
MULTIPLE SILOS FOR U.S. ICBM'S, TERMING THIS A "
"STRANGE GAME." THE COMMENTARY THEN MOVES OFF INTO

A DISCUSSION OF ALLEGED U.S. ENEMIES OF DETENTE.

2. PRAVDA OF JULY 15 CARRIES AN ARTICLE BY ITS CORRESPONDENT IN WASHINGTON, G. VASILIEV, ATTEMPTING TO EXPLAIN TO THE SOVIET READER THE CAUSES TO "THE

NEW OUTBURST OF ANTI-SOVIETISM IN THE U.S.," WHICH "FORMALLY" IS CAUSED BY SOVIET TRIALS OF "RENEGADES AND SPIES." VASILIEV EXPLAINS U.S. INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS AS AN EFFORT BY THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO DEMONSTRATE ITS TOUGHNESS AND TO APPEASE THE RIGHT IN THE U.S., AND WARNS THAT SUCH A PROGRAM CAN TAKE ON A MOMENTUM OF ITS OWN AND COULD LEAD TO "CONFRONTATION."

3. SIMILAR THEMES APPEAR IN AN ARTICLE IN PRAVDA ON JULY 17 BY V. ZHURKIN, "THE REAL CAUSE OF ONE MYTH," WHICH RETURNS TO THE SUBJECT OF THE "MYTH OF THE SOVIET THREAT." THE ALLEGED CAMPAIGN IN THE U.S. ON THIS SUBJECT, PARTICIPATED IN BY THE WHITE HOUSE, IS BLAMED ON THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX, THE PRESS, AND THE PENTAGON. ZHURKIN REPEATS AN EARLIER SOVIET THEME THAT THE U.S. HAS NOT DECIDED BETWEEN NEGOTIATIONS AND MILITARY BUILDUP, AND THEN SEEKS TO REBUT THE ARGUMENT OF A SOVIET MILITARY BUILDUP. IN THE COURSE OF THIS DISCUSSION ZHURKIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOTES WESTERN ATTENTION TO SOVIET NUCLEAR FORCES OF "OPERATIONAL-TACTICAL PURPOSE," I.E., THE SS-20. HE CONCLUDES WITH THE WARNING OF THE DANGER OF SACRIFICING DETENTE TO DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY GOALS.

4. COMMENT: TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, ZHUKOV IS THE FIRST SOVIET TO ADDRESS IN PUBLIC PRINT U.S. PRESS STORIES OF PROPOSALS TO BUILD MULTIPLE SILOS FOR U.S. ICBM'S AND THE CONTEXT OF HIS DISCUSSION IS INTENDED TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION (WITHOUT SO STATING) THAT SUCH A STEP WOULD HARM THE PROSPECTS FOR A SALT AGREEMENT. VASILIEV AND ZHURKIN PRESENT WHAT HAVE BECOME COMMONPLACE ARGUMENTS ON THE THEME OF ALLEGED GROWING ANTI-SOVIETISM IN THE U.S. AND IN SO DOING RESORT TO ONE DIMENSIONAL IMAGES OF U.S. POLICIES AND POLITICS. ALL THREE OF THE ARTICLES SUGGEST THAT MOSCOW HAS DECIDED THAT THE GENEVA TALKS DID NOT SUBSTANTIALLY ALTER THE CLIMATE OF RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND THAT SOVIET (AND FOREIGN) READERS NEED STILL MORE REFUTATION OF THE "MYTH OF THE SOVIET THREAT" AND MORE EXPLANATION OF THE COOLING OF SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS IN TERMS OF U.S. CULPABILITY.

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